



2024 Vintage Overview

Washington's 2024 growing season had two hallmarks. The first was an extreme cold event in January that threatened the vintage. The second was the resiliency of grape vines, leading to a near-normal crop. Quality looks to be high for both white and red varieties in what was an otherwise stress-free season.

Washington is no stranger to winter events and occasional vine damage. The January 2024 freeze, however, was a deviation of normal.

Unlike most years, there was no temperature inversion. As a result, higher elevation vineyards experienced considerably colder temperatures than lower-lying areas. Additionally, the bitter temperatures persisted over days, with some areas seeing as low as -10 degrees Fahrenheit and barely touching highs of zero.

All growing regions were impacted to some extent. Higher elevation sites and regions fared considerably worse, however, with some seeing near 100% primary and secondary bud death. Other areas had spotty damage that was dependent on elevation, variety, and clone. Growers in heavily impacted regions left more buds when they pruned in hopes of getting a crop.

Bud break came in late March, slightly ahead of average, and brought a surprise. More buds pushed than expected in areas that experienced the coldest temperatures.

Spring was generally cool. This led to a slow start to the growing season and larger canopies. Many areas saw an excellent set at bloom the third week of May, slightly ahead of recent averages. Cooler weather persisted, with heat accumulation below long-term averages through June.

Early July to mid-August saw sustained, above average heat. Numerous days reached into triple digits in some areas, slowing maturation. Cooler than average weather arrived the second half of August.

Harvest began in late August, slightly behind recent years but well within norms. Harvest weather was ideal. Growers picked crops that were near average in terms of tons per acre – miraculous in some cases considering the severe temperatures in January. Heat accumulation overall was slightly above the 20-year average.

Many growers noted that Brix were somewhat elevated and acids were higher than expected. Most felt that quality was exceptional for both whites and reds.



WA

46°N

WINE

Indicator	Overview	Detail
Growing season summary	A severe January cold event caused much less damage than expected in what is anticipated to be a high quality year.	January of 2024 had an extreme cold event that led to concerns about bud death. Vines proved resilient, as the state picked a near-average crop in what was an otherwise a stress-free year with high quality whites and reds.
Bud break	Slightly ahead of historical averages.	About a week ahead of historical averages.
Bloom	Slightly ahead of historical averages	2-3 days ahead of historical averages.
Veraison	Slightly behind historical averages	About 5 days behind historical averages.
Harvest	Slightly behind historical averages.	Harvest started in the third week of August, slightly behind historical averages.
Berry size/Cluster size	Slightly smaller than average to average.	Slightly smaller than average to average.
Yields	Average to slightly below average.	Yields were largely average, though for some varieties, slightly below.
Brix	Above average	Delayed ripening led to generally elevated Brix.
Acids	Above average	Acids were higher than expected for the Brix levels.
Disease, Pest, and Environmental pressures	Moderate	There was mildew pressure and more mealy bug pressure than seen in most years.